

REMARKS

Claims 39, 45-57, and 60-72 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 39 and 56 without prejudice. Thus, claims 45-55, 57, and 60-72 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 49-50 and 71-72 contain allowable subject matter.

Allowable claim 49 has been amended to include elements of base claim 39, which has been cancelled. Claims 45-48, 51-55, 65-66, and 69 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 49 and not cancelled claim 39. Thus, independent claim 49, as well as claims 45-48, 50-55, 65-66, 69, and 71 that depend therefrom, are in condition for issuance.

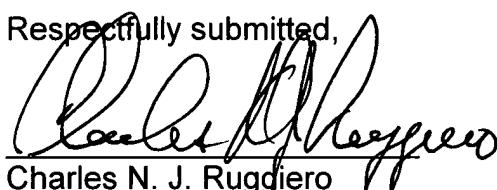
Allowable claim 72 has been amended to include elements of base claim 56, which has been cancelled. Claims 57, 60-64, 67-68, and 70 have been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 72 and not cancelled claim 56. Thus, independent claim 72, as well as claims 57, 60-64, 67-68, and 70 that depend therefrom, are in condition for issuance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

In the alternative, it is respectfully submitted that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment, at least for the purposes of appeal, are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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